

## CDEC 29Q CALENDAR Meeting Minutes – September 23, 2021

- CDEC 29Q President Nicole Hammond called the Calendar Meeting to order at 7:10 pm.
- First Vice President Esther Lelievre produced a highlight video from District 29Q “Back to 29” Homecoming Extravaganza presented prior to the meeting starting.
- **Roll Call:**
  - **Present:** Rehana Begum (L), Nicole Hammond, Tariq Khan, Esther Lelievre, Jermaine McCalpin, Kim West.
  - **Absent:** Asma Akter, Christina Bailey
  - **No Quorum**
  - President Hammond publically announced CDEC 29Q members Asma Akter and Christina Bailey had missed three consecutive meetings without a valid excuse, or any communication with the Council.
    - The Council will notify members A. Akter and C. Bailey of the intent to vacate their seats at the next public meeting.
- **CDEC 29Q President’s Report**
  - President Hammond acknowledge constituents in attendance.
  - Recapped District 29Q “Back to 29” Homecoming event and the activities that took place.
  - President Hammond asked Second Vice President Dr. McCalpin to recap DTYCTSD (Dads Take Your Child to School Day) initiative.
    - Dr. McCalpin reported DTYCTSD 2021 theme “Stop the Spread”.
    - D29Q Homecoming Extravaganza served as a kick-off to DTYCTSD with a presentation by Dr. Julius Johnson.
    - Reviewed last year’s virtual DTYCTSD activities.
    - Acknowledged and thanked partners who help to facilitate DTYCTSD in District 29Q.
- **District 29Q Community Superintendent’s Report**
  - Superintendent Mitchell thanked CDEC 29Q for their partnership with the D29Q Homecoming event, DTYCTSD, and all the events that take place throughout the school year.
  - Superintendent shared a video presentation that highlights successes and accomplishments of District 29Q.
  - Reviewed DOE Health Policies
    - Weekly testing in schools, increase number of students tested, updated quarantine policy.
  - Superintendent Mitchell recognized school building leaders who have completed probation and achieved tenure.
    - Principal Randi Posner-Marino, PS 134Q
    - Principal Rachel Thomas, PS 360Q
    - Principal Francesca Joseph-Fleurant, PS 52Q
    - Principal Relda Barry-Grant, PS 251Q
    - Principal Afua Hill, PS/MS 147Q
    - Principal Michelle Soussoudis, PS 118Q
    - Principal Vincent Gatto PS 33Q

- Superintendent Mitchell reported the District office telephone is still out of order. Provided alternate telephone numbers to reach District office staff.
- **DTYCTSD Presentation:** President Hammond invited Mr. Rodney Pride to introduce guest speaker Dr. Julius Johnson.
  - Dr. Johnson talked about his medical background, pre-pandemic assisting with the opioid crises, and post pandemic working with the vaccine initiative. Dr. Johnson have researched the vaccine and have provided platforms to educate community and answer questions they may have.
  - D29Q Community Questions
    - Question: How does Dr. Johnson feel about the NYC DOE COVID-19 guidance? Dr. Johnson did not comment on the NYC DOE guidance but shared the DOE is adapting to the changes of the FDA & CDC.
    - Dr. Johnson reported unvaccinated people have a higher probability of catching the virus. He further stated there is a very low percentage of vaccinated people who contracts the virus. Added, if a vaccinated person catches the virus, the virus would leave the body rapidly.
    - Question: How soon can a person receive the vaccine after testing negative for COVID-19? Dr. Johnson replied 10 days if person does not have antibodies.
    - Questions: What is his view on not testing 3k and 4k students? Dr. Johnson replied that testing younger students would not make a difference in stopping the spread.
    - Question, what medical conditions would exempt a person from receiving the vaccine? Dr. Johnson replied generally, someone who has blood clots or are immune compromised would be exempt.
      - Superintendent Mitchell reported DOE has a list of medical conditions that would excuse a person from the vaccine mandate.
    - Question: What can people with antibodies do regarding the vaccine? Do you suggest people to test for Antibodies first? Dr. Johnson replied that people should get the vaccine whether they have antibodies or not.
    - Question: What guidance can you give to someone who is allergic to the vaccine?
      - Superintendent Mitchell advised the parent to complete the NYC DOE medical exemption application.
      - Dr. Johnson replied the Moderna & Pfizer vaccine does not contain ingredients to garner allergic reactions.
    - President Hammond thanked Dr. Johnson for his presentation and informed the audience that the Council would invite him back.
- **High School Superintendent Cynthia Schneider**
  - President Hammond welcomed High School Superintendent to the meeting.
  - Superintendent Schneider reported the overall response of high school students returning to in person learning was positive.
    - Students have been engaging with advisors. There is a revised grading policy aligning with social emotional practices. Students have access to all classes and activities.
    - Superintendent reported a focus on MBSK (My Brother and Sister Keeper) and other mentoring programs. MBSK high school students will mentor middle school students. MBSK Adult Ambassadors will mentor high school MBSK students.

- Superintendent reported that last year the district collaborated with Howard University to allow high school students to receive college credits. This year the program will expand to IVY colleges such as Harvard and Princeton. Many high school teachers are College Now certified.
- Schools will begin to focus on engaging students they are not hearing from.
- Superintendent reported District 29 high schools have a 83% graduation rate. Graduation rates continue to climb, college readiness metrics are going up, and more CTE courses offered to Queens South students.
- Announced that Dr. Sutton, Principal at Washington Carver HS is starting a nursing program. The school also has a zoo. Students are constantly taking care of animals and can provide you with a lot of information.
- Superintendent reported she is excited about the future of D29 high schools and look forward to parental input.
- Questions
  - Regarding high school application process, how are families with language barriers handled? Superintendent Schneider replied DOE enrollment centers have translators available to assist families with language barriers.
  - What is the acceptance process? Superintendent Schneider replied acceptance process is computer algorithm based on needs and programs.
  - Comment: waitlist process was challenging because parents received acceptances late in the summer.
  - Superintendent Schneider advised DOE Enrollment office manages placement of students. Further advised it is crucial to attend HS information sessions and to research schools in advance of the application process.
  - When will HS application become available? Superintendent Schneider replied applications would be available late October/early November. High School Principals will host Town Hall meetings. Applications are typically due in December.
  - Community Board 12 Comment about a new high school proposed on 165 & Hillside in Jamaica, Queens, concerned about over saturation of high schools in that area. Superintendent Schneider replied she is will to attend a CB 12 meeting to discuss the need D29 is having with high school seats.
  - Community Board 12 replied they have proposed other locations that would be a better fit. Superintendent Schneider replied she is willing to look at other locations that were proposed and asked CB 12 to send her the list of sites.
  - President Hammond committed to plan a meeting with SCA (School Construction Authority) to further the discussion.
- **Secretary's Report** – CDEC 29Q Member Rehana Begum
  - Approval of CDEC 29Q July & August meeting minutes.
    - Minutes from July and August meetings reviewed. Recording secretary R. Begum asked of motion to approve meeting minutes. All members in attendance approved, no one objected.

- CDEC 29Q approval to pivot to virtual meetings through December 2021. President Hammond motioned to approve virtual meetings. All members in attendance approved, no one objected.
  - CDEC 29Q acceptance of Latasha Wilson’s resignation. President Hammond motioned to accept resignation submitted by CDEC 29Q member Latasha Wilson. All members in attendance approved, no one objected. Latasha Wilson’s council seat was declare vacant.
  - Council discussed two CDEC members who have not attending any meetings. The Council will notify the two members of CDEC 29Q intent to vacate their Council seat.
- **Presidents’ Council Report**
    - President Aubry was unable to remain in the meeting. Ms. Duporte reported on her behalf the next Presidents’ Council meeting, and the date of Presidents’ Council elections.
- **Speaker's List**
    - Verdia Noel, CAO (Council for Airport Opportunity): reported CAO office is open three days a week (M, W, and F) by appointment only. Reported job opportunities have increased and they are recruiting for positions every day. Most recruitment is for job opportunities at JFK.
    - Ari Innis, Councilman I. Daneek Miller office: Congratulated new tenured principals. Reported office has been sponsoring activities for Senior Citizens. Reminded everyone to contact Councilman’s office with questions/concerns. Reminded community they can donate blood for Haitian community.
    - Venus Ketchum: Shout out to Blaque Resource Network for hosting an Educators brunch. Reported students at PAW (Preparatory Academy for Writers) High School are in need of metro cards. Requested a Gifted & Talented presentation. Also requested information regarding information about PS/MS 147Q School.
    - Ron Britt: question regarding Queens HS capacity and what positive impact does removing geographical requirements have on students.
      - How much support are schools receiving related to COVID from district office and DOE Central? Building Custodians have supplies, protocols related to COVID requirements, principals work hand in hand with custodial staff.
    - Kahlil Stephens: listed his concerns regarding his child’s school. Superintendent Mitchell replied her office would continue to dialogue with Mr. Stephens to address concerns.
    - Genevieve Jean: PTA President of PAW, parents are concerned their students do not have metro cards.
      - Additionally, parents are concerned that the School Safety Agent Headquarters @ Springfield HS has an overabundance of safety officers that is intimidating to students. HS Superintendent Schneider replied she would begin a discussion around this issue.
    - Nathalie Duporte, reported students are receiving cold school lunches. Reported slow bus service is making student late for school. Superintendent Mitchell replied students are served hot lunches. Replied she would look student attendance data in regards to transportation challenges.
    - CDEC 29Q President Hammond introduced the CDEC 29Q members elected to serve the 2021-2023 term.

- Tisha Waite asked when middle school applications would become available. Superintendent Mitchell replied possibly October/early November, schools are preparing for open houses.
- CDEC 29Q Member Esther Lelievre statement regarding transportation, has witnessed students using dollar vans because of lack of MTA transportation.
- April Ingram concerned daughter takes mini school bus and there are 14 children on the bus. Feels the bus is overcrowded. Asked how NYC DOE can place her child on another bus. Superintendent Mitchell replied DOE is having hardship with transportation. Reported District office will collaborate with the Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT) to rectify situation.
- **Meeting Adjournment:** CDEC 29Q President Hammond motioned to adjourned Calendar meeting at 9:56 pm. All members in attendance agreed. No one opposed.
- President Hammond motioned to reschedule CDEC 29Q Business meeting to next Wednesday, September 29. All members in attendance agreed. No one opposed.

## CDEC 29Q Business Meeting Minutes – September 29, 2021

- CDEC 29Q Business meeting called to order at 7:10 pm by President Hammond.
- **Roll Call:** CDEC 29Q Member Kim West
  - **Present:** Nicole Hammond, Tariq Khan, Esther Lelievre, Jermaine McCalpin, Kim West.
  - **Excused Absence:** Rehana Begum
  - **No Quorum**
  - Superintendent's Mitchell Administrative Assistant informed Council of her absence due to taking a personal day.
- **Council Vacancy Resolution:** there was no quorum and Council was unable to vote on the Council Vacancy Resolution.
- **Treasurer's Report**
  - President Hammond advised members to submit activity reports to Administrative Assistant.
  - Council reviewed operating budget. Expense made for DTYCTDS masks.
- **CDEC 29Q School Liaison List**
  - Members reviewed the school liaison list and filled in schools who did not have a member assigned to it.
  - Administrative Assistant will send Welcome letters to schools and request their SLT and PTA meeting schedule.
- **CDEC 29Q Goals & Objectives for 2021 – 2022 school year.**
  - Second VP Jermaine McCalpin suggested members establish immediate, short term and long-term goals.
  - Suggested immediate goal is to secure meeting dates for SLTs & PTAs
  - Short term goals:
    - Developed a District 29Q report card.
      - Members should check-in with schools in 3, 6, and 9-month intervals.
      - When visiting schools, members should look at the schools alignment with the district goals.
      - School community should know where ELLs (English Language Learners) and SPEDs (Special Education) students are and what schools they attend.
      - Dr. West reported the CCELL Council goal is to create a robust data base with statistics to understand the population.
    - Technology
      - Technology for all students
      - Adapt technology into the school system.
      - Ensure parents are familiar with the technology students are using.
      - Suggestion made to develop a database of what technology schools have and are using to provide equity across the district.

- Media
  - Ensure D29 has the best technology, collaborating with other organizations to facilitate the process.
  - Suggest Council take advantage of media/PRESS and all social media platforms.
- Multi-Language Learners
  - Students should learn a second language through partnerships and afterschool programs to make them competitive globally.
  - Take a look at the goals of the early childhood programs Emerge Program where students are learning dual language.
  - President Hammond also suggested highlighting schools at monthly CDEC 29Q meetings.
- Long term Goals: not established as of yet.
- **CDEC 29Q Standing Committees**
  - The Council discussed the current standing committees and revised the committees to reflect the goals and objectives of the Council. Committee List available upon request.
- **Upcoming Presentations at CDEC 29Q Meetings**
  - November: District 29Q High School Fair, Present on the High School Process
    - Invite D29Q High Schools to present a highlight reel.
    - Presentation on the high school application process.
    - Establish Breakout Rooms to allow High Schools to present a more in depth presentation.
  - October: Invite NYC DOE Office of District Planning to the October 21 Calendar meeting.
- **Meeting Adjournment:** CDEC 29Q President Hammond made a motion to adjourn the Business Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. All members in attendance agreed. None opposed.
- **CDEC 29Q September 23 Calendar meeting and September 29 Business meeting minutes** submitted by CDEC 29Q Administrative Assistant Nakida Chambers-Camille.